

### **Supporting the North Texas Defense Industry**

Congressman Edwards is a strong supporter of the vital North Texas defense industry. As the co-chairman of bipartisan House Army Caucus and a member of the Appropriations Committee, he has been a key supporter of defense projects that provide jobs and economic development throughout Johnson, Hood and Somervell Counties.

Some of the projects Chet has supported include:

- Lockheed Martin's F-35/Lightning II (Joint Strike Fighter), which will result in \$200 billion in sales over the next 40 years. The JSF is the largest government contract in history
- Lockheed's F-16, the most successful fighter jet in history
- Lockheed's F/A 22
- Bell Helicopter Textron's V-22

### **Improving Transportation in Johnson County**

This year, Chet also worked with community leaders and the Texas Department of Transportation to allocate \$4.3 million in federal funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for numerous highway construction projects throughout Johnson County. The stimulus funds will be used to rebuild and resurface several roadways including U.S. 377 , U.S. 67, and SH 174 and 171. This funding will also enable TxDOT to move forward with its plan to extend Highway 121 into Johnson County.

In 2008, Chet secured \$588,000 to widen Alsbury Blvd. in Burleson, which is crucial to the city of Burleson's transportation plans. The road will cross the BNSF railroad with a separated intersection. North of the railroad, the proposed roadway will be a five-lane undivided roadway and will transition to four lanes through the railway underpass.

Chet secured \$2.2 million in 2005 to widen FM 3391 in Burleson. Widening FM 3391 will ease traffic congestion on East Renfro St. from I-35W to CR 602 in Burleson. Chet also secured \$1.2 million in 2005 for improvements on Colonial Drive in Cleburne.

### **Ham Creek Park Project in Johnson County**

At the request of local officials and Chambers of Commerce, Chet has secured over \$3 million since 2005 to begin the process of re-opening the beautiful Ham Creek Park, located on the Brazos River in southwest Johnson County. Scheduled for completion in August 2009, the park now offers an operational boat ramp, day use pads, tables, pavilions and will include camping facilities. This project is a unique partnership between the Corps of Engineers and Johnson County.

### **Improving Veterans Services**

Chet is a strong supporter of the new Fort Worth VA clinic, which will be the largest leased VA clinic in the nation, five times larger than the current facility. Construction on this critical resource to Fort Worth area veterans is underway and is scheduled to open in late 2010.

### **New Community Center for East Cleburne**

Chet secured \$500,000 for the City of Cleburne to build the first Community and Recreation Center in Cleburne. The Booker T. Washington facility, located in East Cleburne, will host many civic services in the capacity of Youth Programs, Tutoring, Mentoring, Camp Fire Girls, "A's and "B's Program with Cleburne Independent School District, as well as job training and computer education courses. The center also features a Multi-use gymnasium constructed from the original Booker T. Washington High School Gymnasium and an exercise room outfitted with the latest state-of-the-art exercise equipment. This new facility opened in April 2009 and is located at 200 Mansfield St. in Cleburne.

### **Widening US Highway 377 in Granbury**

Working with local officials, Chet secured \$3 million in 2005 for badly needed improvements that will widen US Highway 377 between State Highway 144 and Business 377 east of Granbury.

### **Supporting Nuclear Power**

Congressman Edwards has been a consistent supporter of an aggressive U.S. energy policy. He supports the continued development of nuclear power, critical to the future of the Comanche Peak Power Plant in Glen Rose.

### **Granbury Airport Runway Extension**

Business leaders in the Granbury area have identified improvements at the airport as a top priority in attracting new businesses to the area. Chet has secured \$2.25 million since 2004 to extend the Granbury Airport runway. After meeting with Granbury community leaders on local economic development priorities, Chet made it a priority to seek federal funds for Granbury

Airport.

### **Protecting Lake Granbury**

Lake Granbury is a tremendous asset for the city of Granbury and for all of Hood County, and Congressman Edwards believes protecting the quality of water in the lake is an important investment in the future of the area. Since 2004, Chet has secured over \$1 million in federal funding to protect Lake Granbury water quality. Chet also helped secure a \$1.4 million grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2005.

### **Johnson County Drug Task Force**

Since 2005, Chet has secured over \$200,000 for a Johnson County anti-drug task force known as the Stop the Offender Program (STOP). STOP is a joint undercover program with the objective of curbing the spread of illegal drugs in Johnson County. The program gathers information about low-level drug dealers and uses that information to follow the "chain of command" to larger dealers with the goal of stopping the flow of illegal narcotics into Johnson County.

### **New Hike and Bike Trails in Burleson**

Chet secured \$250,000 to help construct new hike and bike trails in fast-growing Burleson. Once completed, these trails will provide families with a new way to exercise and spend time outdoors.

Any thoughts? Comments? Questions? Let us know what you [think](#).

If you would like to receive periodic e-mail alerts on defense, transportation, and/or veterans' issues, please sign up for our [e-mail newsletter](#).